



DAMES & MOORE

A DAMES & MOORE GROUP COMPANY

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March 24, 1998

Mr. Jim Musso
Northern States Power Company
100 North Barstow St.
P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702

COPY

RE: Dames & Moore Project No. 05644-081
Exploration Trench Activities and Findings
Northern States Power, Ashland, Wisconsin facility

Dear Jim:

Dames & Moore has prepared this letter to present the findings of two exploration trenches excavated on the NSP property on Friday March 13, 1998. These trenches were excavated for the purpose of attempting to locate an alleged subsurface conveyance pipe. A site map showing the location of both trenches and a photo log documenting site activities are included as attachments.

1.0 BACKGROUND

A subsurface conveyance pipe is depicted on a plan set prepared for the construction of the now abandoned Ashland POTW at the City Lakefront. The unsigned drawing set, stamped "preliminary," was prepared in 1951 by Greeley and Hansen. The drawing shows the sanitary sewer layout near the NSP property along St. Claire Street. The drawing is entitled *East Interceptor Plan and Profile Sta 0 + 00 to Sta 15 + 00, Sheet 2 of 14*. The pipe is shown crossing St. Claire Street approximately midway between Third and Prentice Streets, trending in a north-south direction on the south side of the street right-of-way (ROW), turning northwest as it crosses the north side of the ROW. The pipe is labeled as "2" Tar To Abandoned For. Dump" on the plan view, and "2" Tar" on the profile. The pipe is shown at a depth of no more than three feet on the profile, where the sanitary sewer is shown at a depth of about 15 feet.

The NSP property is divided into two parcels. One parcel is located in the northern side of St. Claire Street between Third and Prentice streets, and the second parcel is located on the southern side. The NSP office and maintenance buildings are located on the southern parcel. The northern parcel is used by NSP as an outdoor storage yard for storage of power line maintenance supplies and equipment. The storage yard lot is approximately 170 feet wide along St. Claire Street. It extends approximately 140 feet north from St. Claire Street to the top of a ridge which separates the NSP



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property from Kreher Park located along the Lake Superior shoreline to the north. The storage lot is surrounded by a chain link fence, and is accessed from St. Claire Street by two driveways. A microwave tower and equipment building are located in the northwest corner of the storage lot.

As described in previous reports, a manufactured gas plant (MGP) was located on the southern NSP parcel between 1885 and 1947. Part of the former MGP is now part of the NSP facilities. The storage lot area overlies a former ravine that was filled in 1909. Up to 30 feet of fill material is present in the ravine.

2.0 SITE ACTIVITIES

Two exploration trenches were excavated on the NSP property north of the St. Claire Street ROW on Friday March 13, 1998. This work was completed with an NSP backhoe crew. A Dames & Moore geologist was on-site to document trenching activities. As shown on Figure 1, the first exploration trench was excavated between the west and east gates of the NSP storage yard, approximately 8 feet north of the fence. The second trench was excavated approximately 60 feet north of the first trench, and approximately 40 feet south of the microwave tower. A site map showing the location of the two trenches is attached.

Prior to the excavation of each trench, the NSP crew cut through the frost layer by cutting two shallow trenches 10 to 12-inches deep along the proposed trench. A backhoe was then used to move blocks of frozen soil, and for excavating the trench. Each trench was excavated to a depth of five feet. Excavated material was temporarily stockpiled adjacent to the trench. After the sidewalls of each trench were inspected, excavated material was returned to each trench, and the area was regraded. NSP will likely place gravel over the excavated areas later this spring. A photo log showing excavation activities is included as Appendix A.

3.0 TRENCHING OBSERVATIONS

Material encountered in each exploration trench consisted predominantly of reddish brown silty clay fill material. This fill material contained brick fragments, ceramic bricks, glass fragments, glass bottles, wire, small pieces of steel, and cinders. Dark brown to black horizontal layers of cinder material were encountered in the sidewalls of each trench. The Dames & Moore geologist entered and inspected the sidewalls of the first trench. The second trench was not entered because the sidewalls were unstable due to several layers of non-cohesive loose cinders.

A subsurface conveyance pipe was not encountered in the sidewalls of either trench. Additionally, pipe material was not encountered in the soil stockpiled adjacent to the trench. Signs of the pipe were not encountered in either trench. The horizontal layers of fill material were continuous along the sidewalls of the trench, indicating no disruption from excavation (e.g., when a conveyance pipe



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was installed) following filling of the ravine. No evidence of coal tar impacts was encountered.

4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

An alleged subsurface conveyance pipe was depicted on a March 1951 plan set prepared as part of the sewer layout for the now abandoned Ashland POTW. The conveyance pipe was shown crossing St. Claire Street between the northern and southern parcels of the NSP property. Its origin and destination are unknown, and the description on the plan is vague. No other documentation on the installation, removal, or use of the pipe has been found. On March 13, 1998 two trenches were excavated on the northern NSP parcel in an attempt to locate this pipe. The first trench was excavated parallel to St. Claire Street north of the ROW. The second trench was excavated approximately 60 feet north of the first trench. The subsurface conveyance pipe was not encountered in either trench. Fill material was encountered in both trenches which included glass, brick fragments, wire, and cinders. However, no signs of the pipe were encountered in either trench. Additionally, the fill placed in the ravine prior to 1909 was stratified. This stratification indicates that no disruption of the fill took place, as expected if the material were excavated for installation of the pipe. Additionally, no evidence of coal tar impacts was encountered.

Please call us at (608) 273-2886 with any questions.

Sincerely,

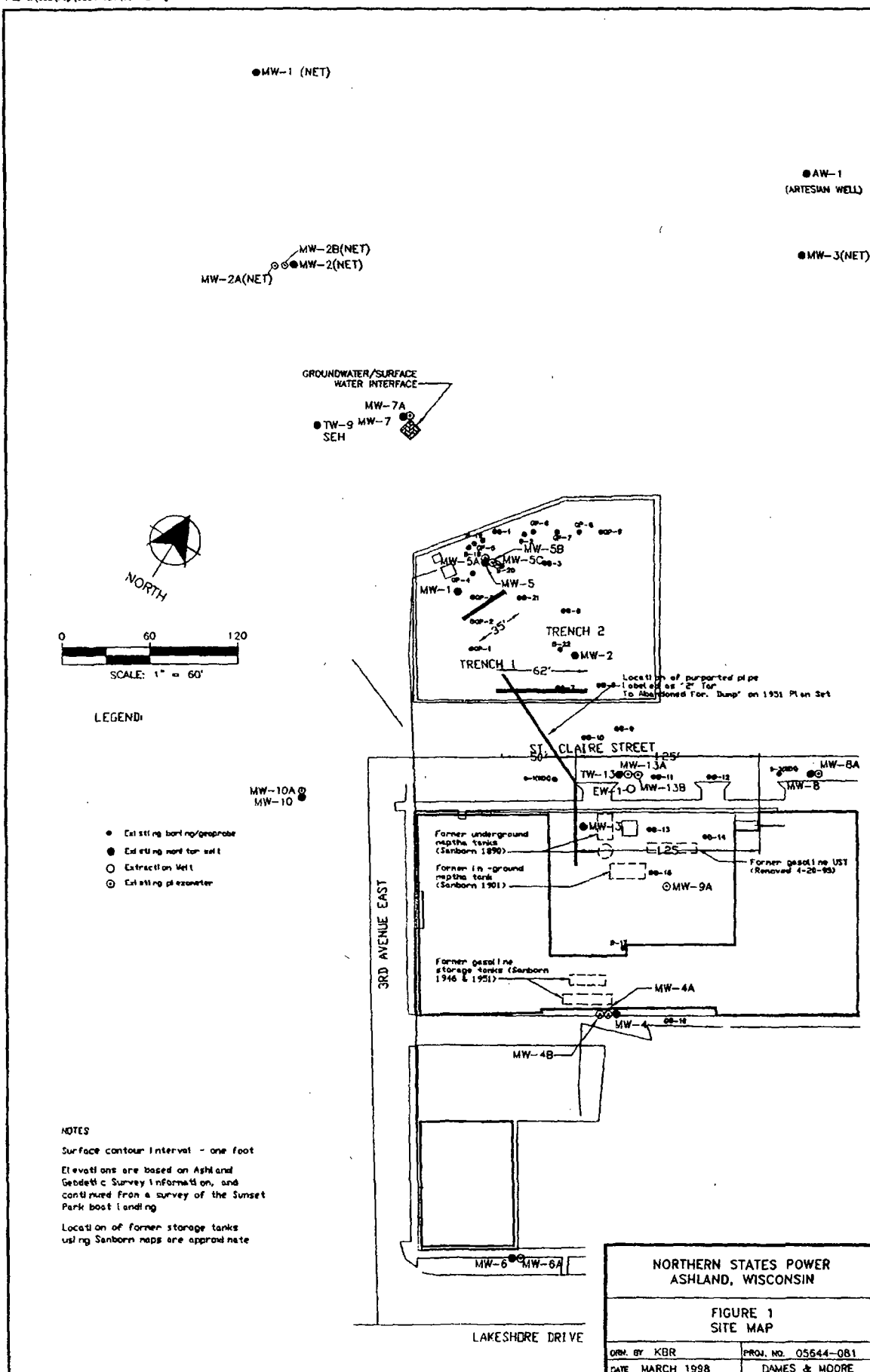
DAMES & MOORE

Mark S. McColloch, P.G.
Project Geologist

David P. Trainor
Principal in Charge

cc: John Wilson, Northern States Power
Pete Erickson, Northern States Power
Dave Crass, Michael Best & Friedrich

FIGURES



APPENDIX A
PHOTO LOG

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TRENCH 1- PHOTO LOG

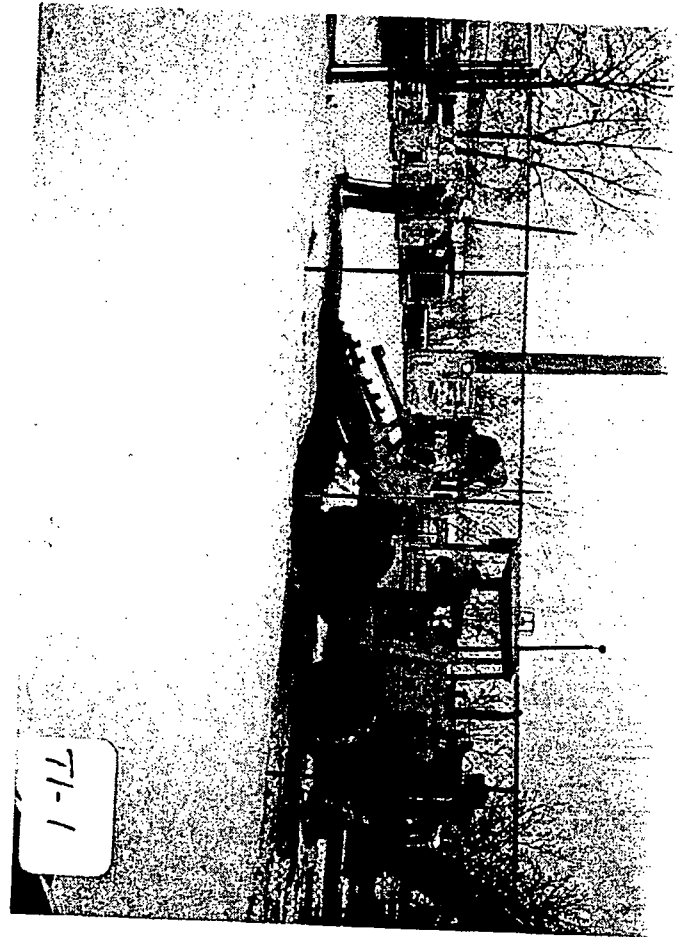
<u>PHOTO NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
T1-1	Cutting through frost layer with trencher. Trench 1 area north of fence parallel to St. Claire Street.
T1-2	Trench 1 shallow trenches excavated to break through frost layer.
T1-3	Fill material encountered in Trench 1.
T1-4	Horizontal dark fill layers in Trench 1 sidewall.
T1-5	Location of Trench 1 north of NSP storage yard fence.
T1-6	Location of Trench 1 north of NSP storage yard fence.
T1-7	Fill material encountered in Trench 1.
T1-8	Horizontal fill layers (dark colored) in sidewall of Trench 1.
T1-9	Fill material encountered in Trench 1.
T1-10	Frozen blocks of surface soil from Trench 1.
T1-11	Fill material encountered in Trench 1.
T1-12	Trench 1 completed to five feet.
T1-13	Excavating on east end Trench 1.
T1-14	Fill material (reddish brown silty clay and dark fill layers) on east end of Trench 1.

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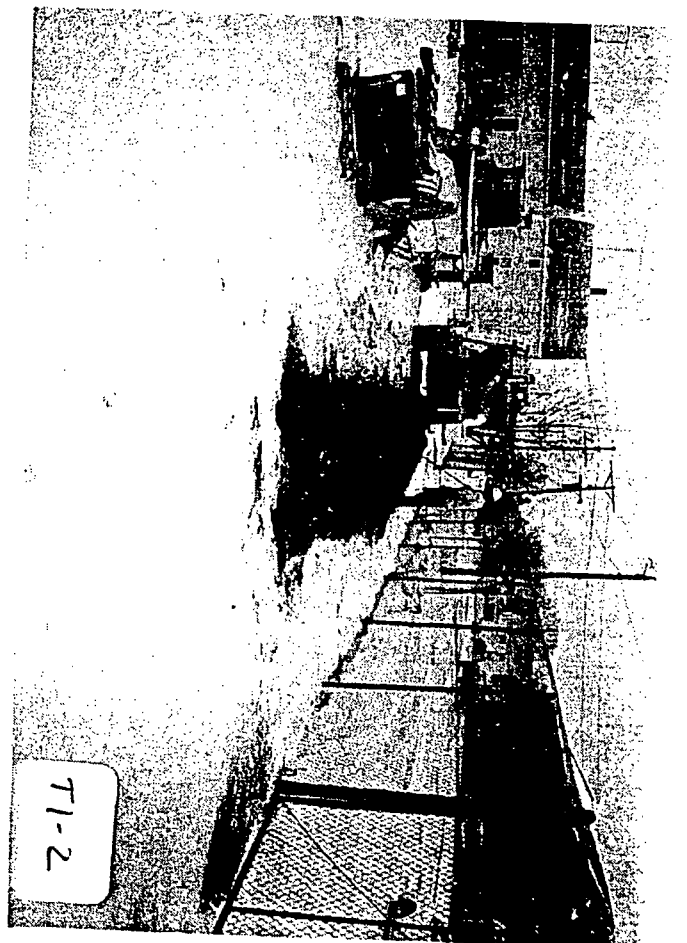
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TRENCH 1 - PHOTO LOG

<u>PHOTO NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
T1-15	Regrading backfilled Trench 1.
T1-16	Backfilled and regrading Trench 1 (looking north).
T1-17	Trench 1 looking west (backfilled).
T1-18	Trench 1 looking west (backfilled).
T1-19	Trench 1 looking east (backfilled).
T1-20	Trench 1 looking east (backfilled).
T1-21	Southern parcel of NSP property.
T1-22	Southern parcel of NSP property.



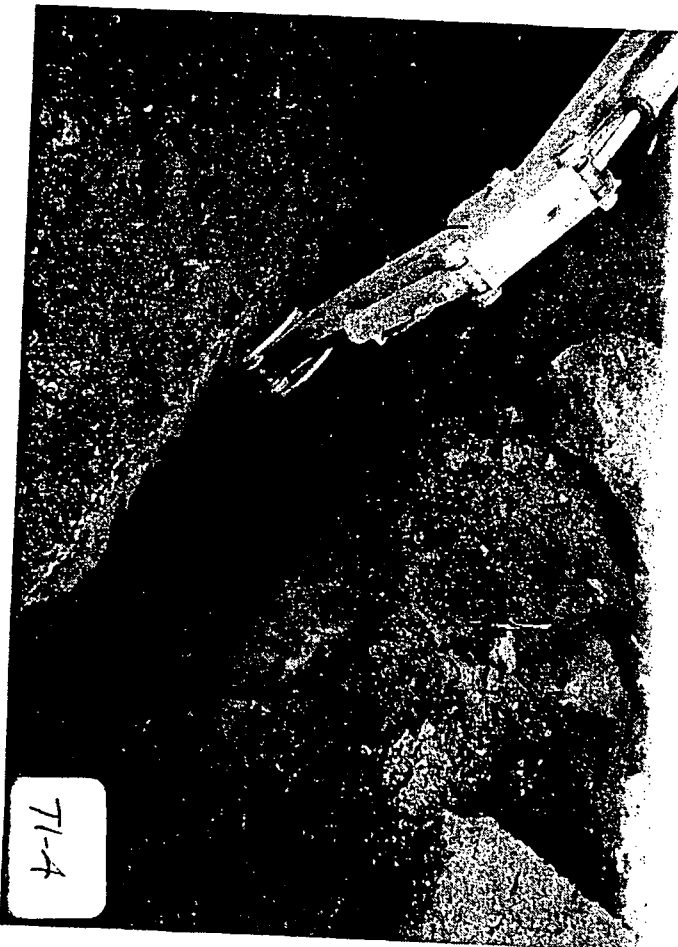
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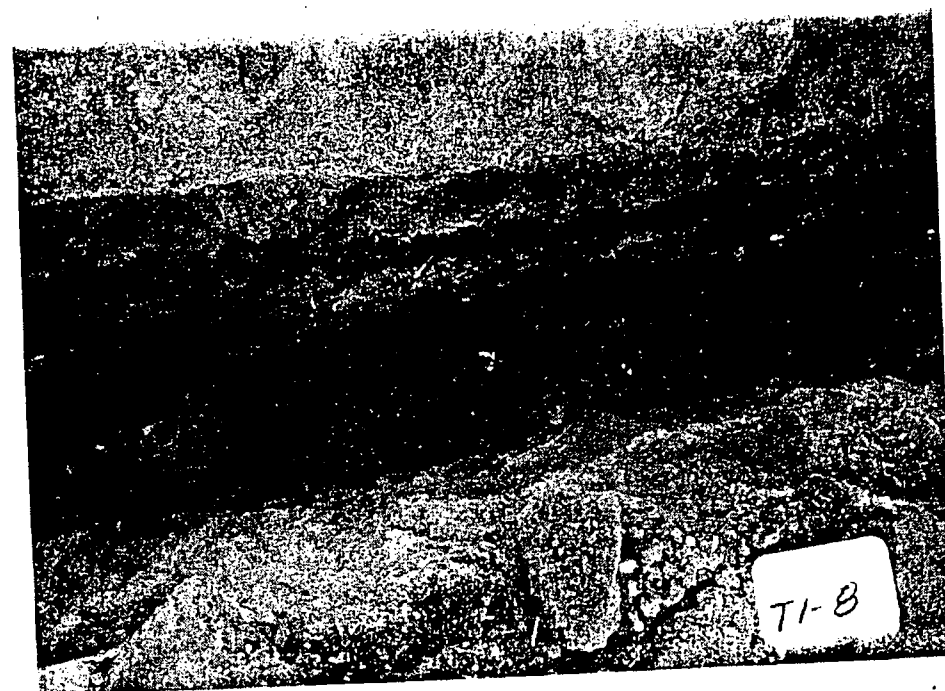
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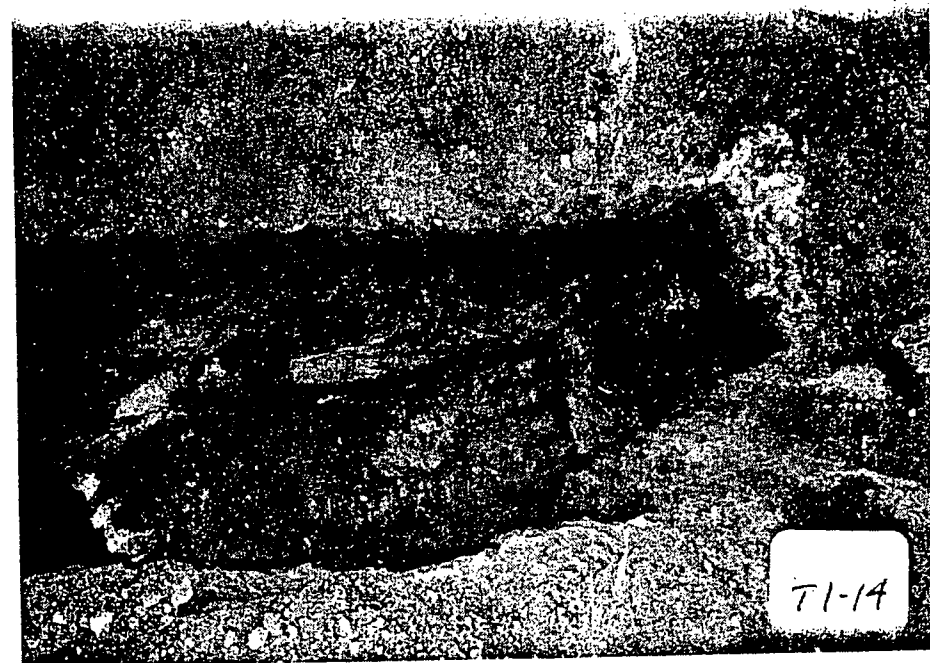
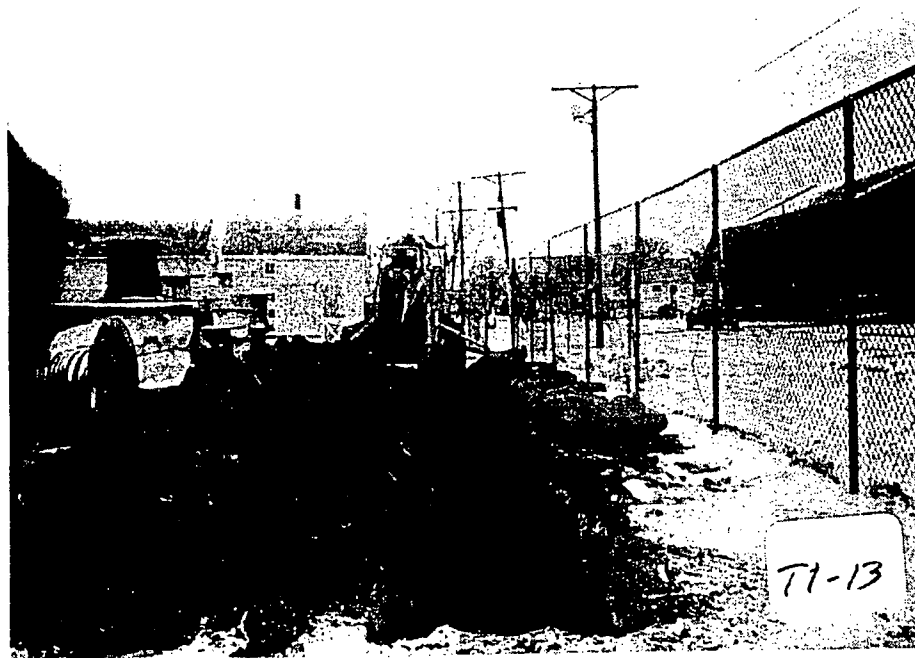
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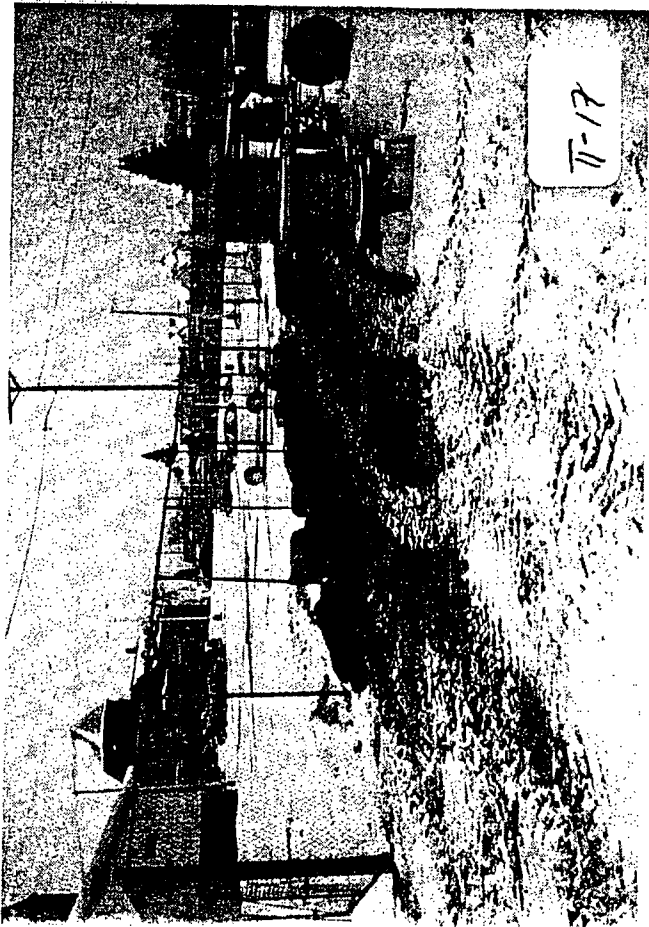
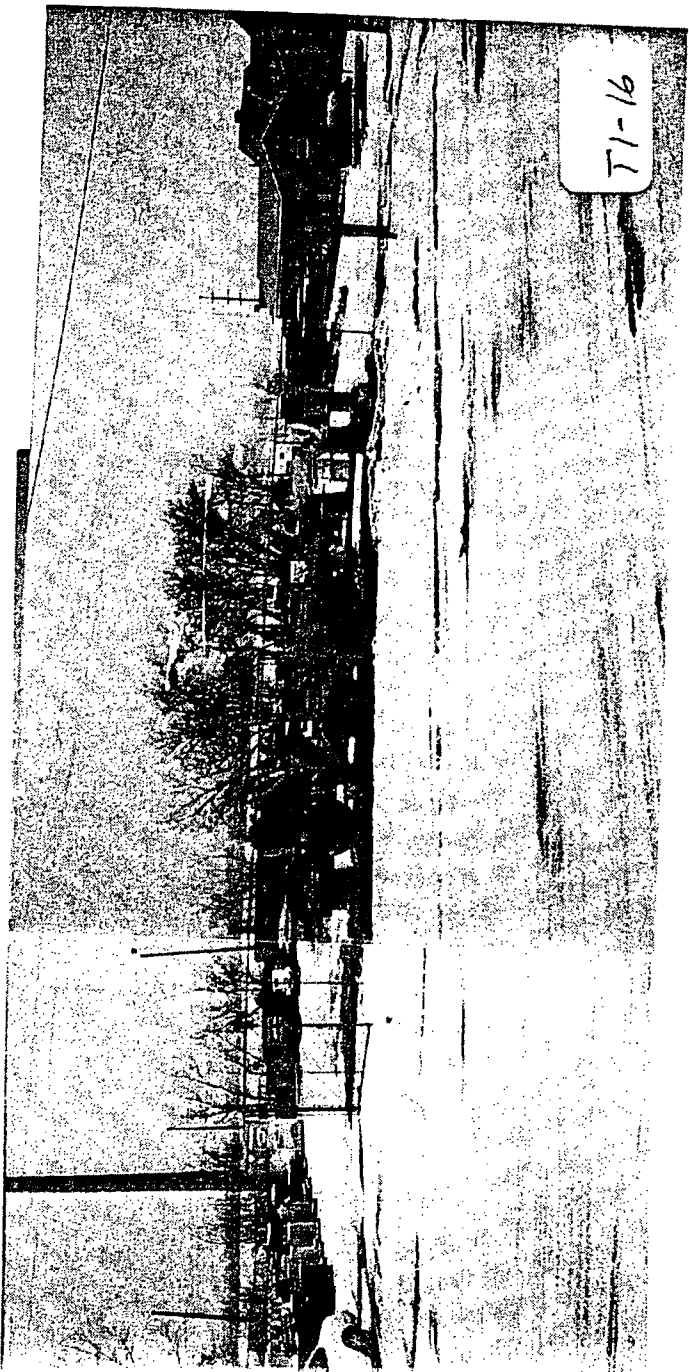


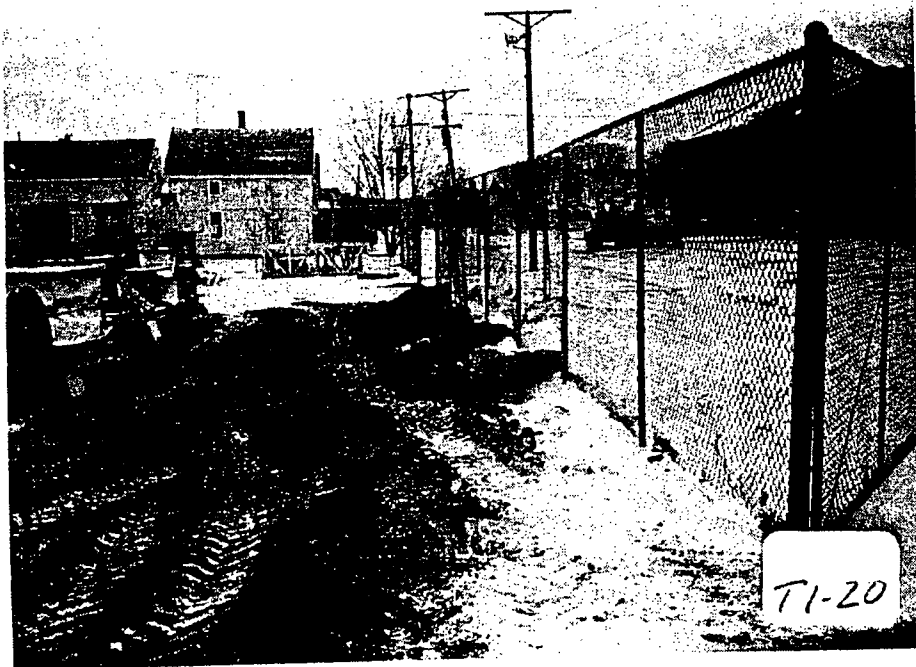
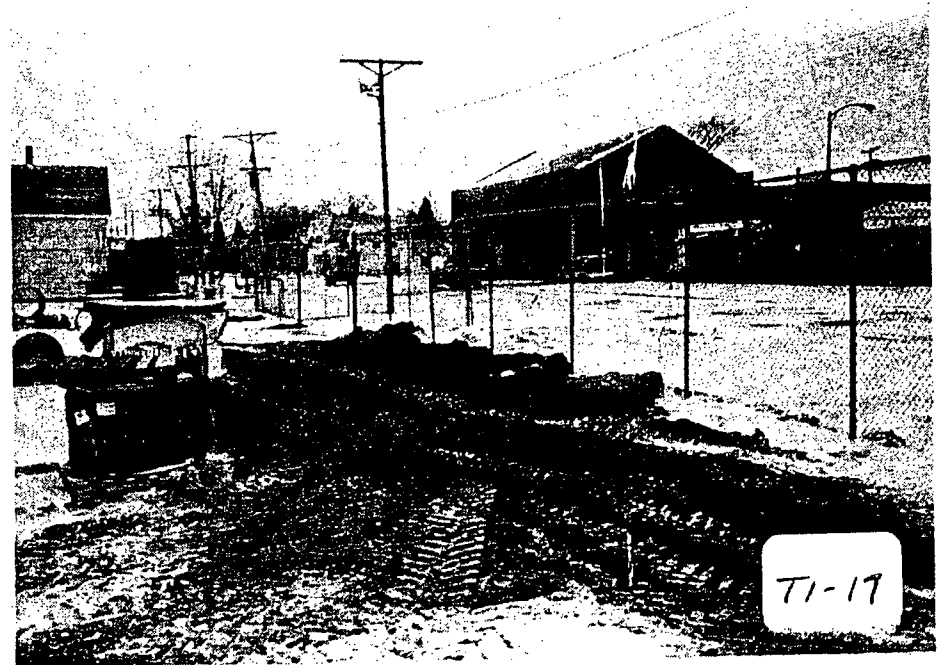
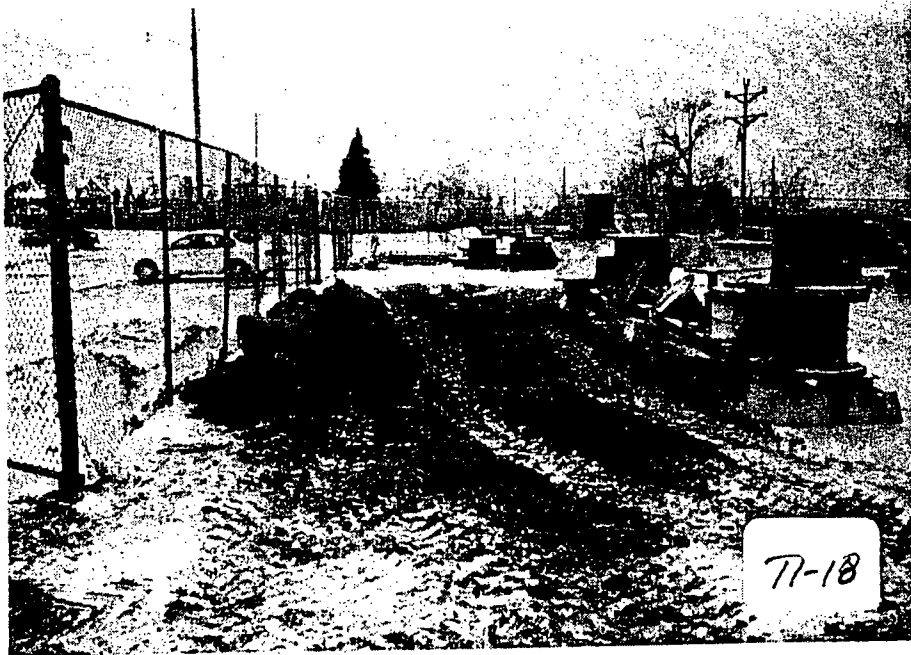
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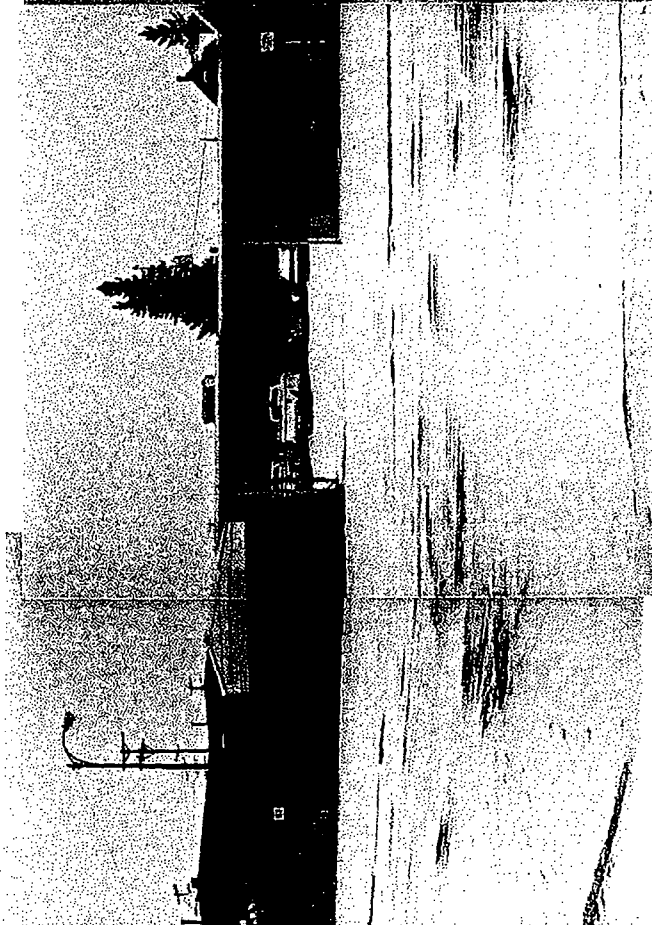












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TRENCH 2 - PHOTO LOG

<u>PHOTO NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
T2-1	Trench 2 area prior to excavation. Microwave tower and shed north of trench 2 area.
T2-2	Excavating Trench 2 (looking north).
T2-3	East end of Trench 2.
T2-4	Excavating Trench 2 (looking south).
T2-5	Steel wheel encountered in Trench 2.
T2-6	Dark colored horizontal cinder layer in Trench 2.
T2-7	Fill material encountered in Trench 2.
T2-8	Horizontal layers of cinders encountered in Trench 2.
T2-9	Fill material in Trench 2 (east end).
T2-10	Fill material in Trench 2 (east-central end).
T2-11	Fill material in Trench 2 (west-central end).
T2-12	Fill material in Trench 2 (west end).
T2-13	Backfilling east end of Trench 2.
T2-14	Backfilling Trench 2.
T2-15	Regrading Trench 2.
T2-16	Regrading Trench 2.

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TRENCH 2 - PHOTO LOG

<u>PHOTO NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
T2-17	Looking west at backfilled Trench 2.
T2-18	Backfilled Trench 2 looking west.
T2-19	Backfilled Trench 2 looking north.
T2-20	Backfilled Trench 2 looking north.
T2-21	Backfilled Trench 2 looking northeast.

